

# MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



## *Office of Public Information*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **COURT FEES SEE INCREASE; PRESERVING PUBLIC SERVICES IS GOAL**

LANSING, MI, October 7, 2003 -- Filing fee increases on all levels of Michigan's judicial branch went into effect on October 1.

The fees are part of a proposal made by the Michigan Supreme Court to the state Legislature in May 2003. In a budget presentation to the Legislature, Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan noted that the Governor and Department of Management and Budget had called for state departments and agencies to consider ways of conserving tax dollars through increased user fees. Raising filing fees in civil matters would help preserve a number of public services that might otherwise suffer because of budget cuts, including drug courts and improved court technology that will allow all state courts to share information with law enforcement, she said.

Civil case filing fees for trial courts were last raised in 1997; appellate court filing fees have not gone up since 1998. During her presentation, Corrigan noted that the proposed increases "would by no means put Michigan at the top for filing fees nationally ... For example, our near neighbors, Wisconsin and Illinois, both charge more [to file a civil case in trial court] -- \$214 and \$198 respectively." The comparable rate for filing a civil case in Michigan, as of October 1, is \$150.

Corrigan also emphasized that courts have discretion to waive filing fees for "for indigent people who are on public assistance. This revenue proposal does not change that. It will not stand between the poor and their access to our justice system."

The fee increases include:

- **Supreme Court:**
  - application for leave to appeal: \$375
  - original proceeding: \$375
  
- **Court of Appeals**
  - application for leave to appeal: \$375
  - original proceeding: \$375
  - appeal as of right: \$375
  - motion filing fee (except a motion for immediate consideration or a motion to expedite appeal upon the motion docket): \$100
  - motion for immediate consideration or to expedite appeal upon the motion docket: \$200

- **Circuit Court**
  - to commence an ancillary guardianship or limited guardianship proceeding in the Family Division: \$150
  - to begin a civil action: \$150
  - to file a claim of appeal or motion for leave to appeal from the district court, probate court, municipal court, or an administrative tribunal or agency: \$150
- **Probate Court**
  - to commence a civil action or proceeding: \$150
  - to commence a guardianship or limited guardianship proceeding: \$150
  - for a motion, petition, objection or claim: \$20
- **District Court**
  - to file a complaint for recovery of possession of premises only: \$45
  - to commence a civil action if the amount in controversy:
    - (a) Does not exceed \$600: \$25
    - (b) Exceeds \$600 but does not exceed \$1,750: \$45
    - (c) Exceeds \$1,750 but does not exceed \$10,000: \$65
    - (d) Exceeds \$10,000: \$150
    - (e) If a claim for money damages is accompanied by a claim for relief other than money, a supplemental filing fee is required in the same amount as the filing fee for the money damage claim, as provided in a-d above
  - motion filing fee: \$20
  - to commence a small claims action if the amount in controversy:
    - (a) Does not exceed \$600: \$25
    - (b) Exceeds \$600 but does not exceed \$1,750: \$45
    - (c) Exceeds \$1,750: \$65

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